

Boatswain's Chairs

WAC 296-878-190

Rule

WAC 296-878-19005

Select appropriate boatswain's chairs

You must

- (1) Make sure that when you use a **block and tackle**, it is the correct size, including:
 - Correctly-sized ball bearings or bushed blocks
 - Safety hooks
 - Eye-spliced rope
 - A minimum breaking strength of 5,000 pounds
- (2) Make sure all rope used with a boatswain's chair has a minimum breaking strength of 5,000 pounds, including rope used for:
 - Suspension
 - Block and tackle
 - Seat slings
- (3) Make sure the ropes on boatswain's chair seat slings:
 - Are reeved through the 4 corner holes in the seat
 - Cross each other on the underside of the seat
 - Are rigged so the chair can't slip out of a level position



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Rule

WAC 296-878-19010

Safely use boatswain's chairs rigged with a block and tackle

You must

- (1) Make sure the **rated capacity** or the maximum intended load, whichever is less, isn't exceeded.
- (2) Make sure the suspension rope stays vertical between the boatswain's chair and suspension device unless all of these requirements are met:
 - The rigging has been designed by a qualified person
 - The scaffold can be easily reached by rescuers
 - The suspension rope is protected from damage when a change in direction occurs
 - The scaffold won't swing and contact another surface
- (3) Make sure a suspension height of 75-feet above grade or building setback isn't exceeded.



Exemption:

- Suspension height may be up to 130 feet above grade or building setback if the boatswain's chair block and tackle has all of the following:
 - An automatic braking system
 - A design that minimizes the amount of force required to raise or lower the suspended worker
 - An automatic braking system that automatically maintains an elevation when no force is applied to the tackle
 - A system that doesn't slip

—Continued—



Boatswain's Chairs

WAC 296-878-190

Rule

WAC 296-878-19010 (Continued)

You must

- (4) Prohibit tying any kind of knot in a block and tackle system to maintain elevation.
- (5) Make sure another worker is stationed below any boatswain's chair rigged with a block and tackle who can assist the suspended employee.
- (6) Make sure workers don't attempt to increase the work area by swinging, swaying, or other maneuvers.

